

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02056 121306Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098038 121306Z /43

O 121150Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7569
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2056

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) USUN 1383; (B) USUN 1375

1. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY RAISED IN LAST PARAGRAPH
REFTEL (A) THAT SOMEONE AT JERUSALEM UN HDQS. MIGHT BE GIVING
ISRAELIS IMPRESSION WITHDRAWAL NOT AS URGENT AS WE BELIEVE,
SUSPECT ANOTHER LIKELY SOURCE OF THIS IMPRESSION IS CHRISTIAN
LEBANESE RIGHTISTS AND PERHAPS SOME SHI'A WITH SHOME ISRAELIS
IN CONTACT. AS WE WILL BE REPORTING IN LONG SEPTTEL, ONLY
REAL SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT WITHDRAWAL TO BE FOUND HERE TODAY
IS AMONG PALESTINIANS, LEFTISTS AND SUNNI MUSLIMS (AND
FOREIGN DIPLOMATS). PRIME MINISTER HOSS IS A SUNNI, AND
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THAT EXPLAINS HIS STATEMENT, AND LACK OF SIMILAR ONES FROM
BOUTROS AND SARKIS.

2. WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT MANY CHRISTIANS IN GOVERN-
MENT DO NOT WANT AN UNCOORDINATED, UNCONDITIONAL IMMEDIATE
WITHDRAWAL, GOL LEADERS WOULD NEVER SAY SO PUBLICLY. IF
ISRAELIS TRY TO CLAIM TUENI HAS MISREPRESENTED GOL'S POSITION,

AS LAMDAN IMPLIES (REFTEL B), THEY WILL FIND GOL BACKING HIM
UP ALL THE WAY. THIS IS ISSUE ON WHICH LEBANESE CANNOT
AFFORD TO BE LESS ARAB THAN THE ARABS IN A FORUM LIKE THE
UN, WHATEVER THEIR PRIVATE FEELINGS MAY BE. AS SEEN FROM
HERE, TUENI HAS DONE MASTERFUL JOB OF BALANCING CONFLICTING
LEBANESE SENTIMENTS AND HAS HEWN VERY CLOSELY TO THE LINE
WE UNDERSTAND BOUTROS HAS BEEN LAYING DOWN. PARKER

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